THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present practice is to treat expunged remarks as non-existent and the same will be followed even after the Annual Confidential Report in the new format comes into force.

Delay in extradition of Charles Shobraj to Thailand

*46. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased be state :

(a) what are the reasons for delay of Charles Shobraj to Thailand in spite of the repeated demands of the Thailand Government; and

(b) by when he is likely to be extradited to Thailand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The request from the Government of Thailand for the extradition of Charles Shobraj is being processed under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962. It is not possible to indicate precisely when this process will be completed in view of the legal intricacies involved.

Grounding of AN-32 fleet of the Air Force

*47. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to ground the fleet of AN-32 aircraft of Indian Air Force till the causes of the recent accidents are determined ;

(b) whether there have been complaints by the pilots regarding vibrations and noise in the cockpit of AN 32 aircraft ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is a system in the IAF under which IAF Personnel can complain about any potential flight safety hazard. No such complaints regarding high noise level or abnormal vibrations in the cockpit of the AN-32 aricraft have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding contract Labour System—in the Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad

*48. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations/complaints regarding contract labour system continuing in the Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, what is the nature of complaints;

(c) whether Government have taken any action thereon;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representationist has urged *inter-alia* that Bharat Electronics Ltd. should terminate job contracts for sweeping, cleaning and appoint additional safai Karamcharis in the establishment.

(c) to (e) The matter was examined and BEL have stated that they do award such contracts for jobs of seasonal or special nature which are not directly connected with the main manufacturing process. For these jobs permanent staff is not required.

Demand for repeal of section 5 of Official Secrets Act

*49. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Hindustan Times of 23rd March, 1986 to the effect that the National Union of Journalists backed by most editors of prominent national dailies have demanded repeal of Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act as that Section comes in the way of the right of access of the journalists to information; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response to the demand?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to repeal Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Request to UK for extradition of extremists

*50. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has been urging the Government of UK over the past one year or so to deport 25 to 30 extremists and terrorists alleged to be connected with the so-called Khalistan campaign abroad; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of the U.K. Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Government of India has been urging the U.K. Government to take effective action against anti-Indian extremists in the U.K., including invoking the provisions of law, to extradite and deport these extremists to India.

(b) The U.K. Government's position is that while they deplore the activities of anti-Indian extremists in U.K., they can be proceeded against only in terms of the U.K. laws.

A draft of an Extradition Treaty has been submitted to the U.K. Government and is presently under consideration by them.

Refugee rehabilitation programme in West Bengal

*51. DR. R.K. PODDAR :

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the details of the rehabilitation programme of the Central Government